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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Agenda items 20, 38, 40, 43, 64, 81, 89, 95, 97, 98, 99, 103, 104 and 152
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION
MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 July 1998 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the Declaration signed in duplicate in Turkish and Russian on 9 June 1998 in the city of Astana, Kazakhstan, by the leaders of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and the

Republic of Uzbekistan at the Fifth Summit Meeting, and the Joint Statement (see annexes).

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 38, 40, 43, 64, 81, 89, 95, 97, 98, 99, 103, 104 and 152, and of the Security Council.

Eldar G. KOULIEV
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Azerbaijan Republic to
the United Nations

Zamira B. ESHMAMBETOVA
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Kyrgyz Republic to
the United Nations

Murad NURYAGDIEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Turkmenistan
to the United Nations

Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to
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Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Turkey to
the United Nations

Alisher VOHIDOV
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Uzbekistan to
the United Nations

Annex I

[Original: Russian]

Declaration of the Fifth Summit of Turkish-speaking States

Astana

Mr. Heydar Aliev, President of the Azerbaijan Republic, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Askar Akaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Sahat Muradov, Chairman of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, and Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan held their fifth summit meeting on 9 June 1998 in Astana.

The Heads of State,

On the basis of the commonality of the historical development of their culture, language and traditions,

Striving for the further intensification of all-round, constructive and fruitful development of the links between their countries on the basis of the principles of respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, equal rights, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, the performance in good faith of obligations stemming from the universally accepted norms of international law, and the renunciation of the use or threat of force, and of economic or other means of exerting pressure,

Confirming their commitment to the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, and in compliance with the obligations entered into in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Confirming the continuity of the Ankara statement and the Istanbul, Bishkek and Tashkent declarations,

Expressing satisfaction at the dynamic and progressive development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the Turkish-speaking States in various fields over the past six years since the signing of the Ankara statement,

Having considered the state of relations and the prospects for the development of cooperation among their countries, and having exchanged views on a number of international and regional problems,

Declare:

1. The Heads of State expressed satisfaction with the development of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among their countries in various fields and noted the need for the further expansion and intensification of such

cooperation on the basis of the development and implementation of specific projects for the well-being and prosperity of their peoples.

2. The Heads of State approved the Statute of the Secretariat of the Meetings of Heads of State of the Turkish-Speaking Countries (SMHTC) and assigned control over the activities of the Secretariat to the foreign policy bodies.

3. Bearing in mind that the Fifth Meeting coincided with the presentation of the new capital of the sovereign State of Kazakhstan, the Heads of State confirmed their support for the transformations taking place in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

4. Noting the importance of joint implementation of the "Restoration of the Silk Route" programme, the Heads of State acknowledged that the implementation of the programme would play an important role in the economy of the region and would strengthen mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

5. The Heads of State affirmed the importance and necessity of expanding and intensifying economic ties in the fields of trade, investment, industrial cooperation and promotion of economic integration processes.

6. The Heads of State again emphasized the special importance of developing and extracting the rich natural resources of their countries, in the first instance natural gas, petroleum and hydro-energy resources, and called for urgent measures to conduct joint projects for laying pipelines and electricity transmission lines to deliver energy to world markets, with the involvement in these projects of the States concerned, international financial institutions and State and private structures.

The Heads of State noted with satisfaction the work performed by the relevant States and international organizations in connection with the laying of oil and gas pipelines through Turkey to the shores of the Mediterranean and in Europe.

7. The Heads of State welcomed and expressed appreciation of the initiative of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic to hold an international conference in the city of Baku to develop the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Transport Corridor and the adoption of new standard multilateral agreements on transport to promote the development of alternative transport networks.

8. The Heads of State recognized that it is essential to give an impetus to scientific and technological cooperation and to improve the existing transport and communications infrastructure linking the countries of the region, and were in favour of the exchange of relevant experiences and appropriate technologies in those fields.

9. In order to further develop the processes of integration, the Heads of State called for encouragement for the creation of consortia in the fields of industry, agriculture, and transport and communications.

10. The Heads of State noted the urgency of developing cooperation in the field of environmental protection, and called for the adoption of urgent measures on an international scale to stabilize the environmental situation in the region of the participating countries.

11. The Heads of State expressed their support for the efforts of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to stimulate and broaden the processes of integration in the region.

12. In order to disseminate experience, information and a popular appreciation of the cultural and historical heritage of the Turkish peoples, the Heads of State called for the further development of exchanges of information and cooperation between the mass media of the Turkish-speaking States and non-governmental organizations.

13. The Heads of State emphasized the importance of the efforts being undertaken by the States of Central Asia to overhaul the education system, and called for international support for those reforms and for encouragement to be given to the exchange of experience in that area.

14. The Heads of State emphasized the importance of the initiative of Kazakhstan to convene a meeting on cooperation and confidence-building measures in Asia.

15. Expressing their approval of the efforts of the international community and of interested countries to establish stability in the region, the Heads of State supported the process aimed at bringing about a peaceful settlement in Tajikistan.

The Heads of State again called for the opposing sides in Afghanistan to step up their efforts to settle the conflict with the participation of interested States under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The Heads of State noted that the failure to settle the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan was hampering the economic development of those countries and the improvement in the well-being of their peoples and, on humanitarian grounds, emphasized the importance of a peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the three principles of the Lisbon Summit of OSCE.

16. Expressing concern at the scale and rising trend of the illegal production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and also at the possibility of the territory of the participating States being used for their unlawful transit, the Heads of State confirmed their readiness to take coordinated action to combat the drug trade, and also to cooperate with the efforts of the international community, in particular the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

17. The Heads of State again emphasized the need for international cooperation to combat terrorism, religious extremism and separatism, which recognized no frontiers between States.

18. The Heads of State once more emphasized their adherence to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and expressed and supported the idea that the Turkish-speaking States are a vital and active part of the world community, and are ready for mutually beneficial and fruitful cooperation with all other countries in the interests of peace, security and progress.

19. The Heads of State emphasized that the Fifth Meeting, which had taken place in a frank and friendly atmosphere in Astana, will undoubtedly become an important milestone in the further development of cooperation between the Turkish-speaking States, and also in ensuring stability and peace in the region.

The Heads of State agreed to hold the next meeting in Baku.

Done at Astana on 9 June 1998 in six copies, each in the Turkish and Russian languages.

The President of the Azerbaijan Republic	Heydar Aliyev
The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Nursultan Nazarbaev
The President of the Kyrgyz Republic	Askar Akayev
The President of the Republic of Turkey	Süleyman Demirel
The Chairman of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan	Sahat Muradov
The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan	Islam Karimov

Annex II

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the participants in the Fifth Summit of Turkish-Speaking States

We, the leaders of the Turkish-speaking States participating in the Fifth Summit in Astana, capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan, have expressed deep concern at the nuclear weapons tests that have been conducted in India and Pakistan. These tests seriously undermine regional and global stability and security, are conducive to the escalation of the nuclear arms race and are contrary to the policy of our States to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

We call on India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and responsibility, to conduct no further nuclear tests and to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Astana, 9 June 1998

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 23 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my previous letter, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 21 and 22 July 1998.

On those two days, 8 Turkish military aircraft (two RF-4, two C-130, two G-4, one C-160 and one C-235) entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations. The two RF-4 flew over the area of Karpasia and returned to the Ankara flight information region. The CN-235 flew over the area of the cave of Apostle Andreas before returning to the Ankara flight information region. The two C-130, one C-160 and two G-4, landed at the illegal airports of Lefkoniko and Tymbou, and then returned to the Ankara flight information region.

The ten NF-5s that had landed at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko on 18 July 1998, as stated in my previous letter (see A/52/988-S/1998/670), returned to Ankara flight information region on 21 July 1998.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are not only in violation of international air traffic rules, but are at the same time, in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against these repeated provocative acts by Turkey, a Member State of

the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agis LOIZOU
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

United Nations A/52/992

General Assembly

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24 July 1998

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Fifty-second session
Agenda items 20, 107 and 112

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and humanitarian questions

Human rights questions

Letter dated 17 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly*

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of an updated memorandum on Eritrean aggression against Ethiopia and continued gross violations of the human rights of Ethiopians in Eritrea.

I should be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 107 and 112.

(*Signed*) Duri **Mohammed**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Previously issued under the symbol S/1998/662.

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Annex I

Updated memorandum by the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, dated 16 July 1998

Eritrean aggression against Ethiopia and continued gross violations of the human rights of Ethiopians in Eritrea

1. It is now over two months since the unprovoked and naked aggression against Ethiopia was launched by the Eritrean regime. It is well known to the whole world that the Ethiopian Government as well as the international community have been calling upon the Eritrean Government to pull out its invading force from Ethiopian territory and instead to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Nevertheless, the Eritrean regime has so far turned down all the peace proposals in flagrant disregard of the peaceful intentions of Ethiopia, the proposals of the facilitators, namely, the Governments of the United States of America and Rwanda, the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations Security Council and the European Union.

2. This being the indisputable fact known to the international community, the Eritrean regime has persisted with its empty rhetoric ad nauseam that it is committed to a peaceful resolution of the crisis between the two countries, and has continued to disseminate its baseless accusations against Ethiopia.

3. In this connection, the statement issued on 3 July 1998, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea under the title "Ethiopia's gross violations of the human rights of Eritreans living in Ethiopia", circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/52/974-S/1998/611), is the most recent attempt in the series of unfounded allegations levelled against Ethiopia by the Eritrean regime.

4. That statement is a familiar ploy by the Eritrean authorities aimed at deceiving the international community and covering up the war of aggression against Ethiopia, that is, continued occupation of Ethiopian territory since 12 May 1998, over and above its gross violations of the Geneva conventions of 1949, which the whole world has witnessed in extensive detail, particularly in its air attack on Adigrat and Mekelle, targeting civilians and shelling the social facilities in Zalambassa, Badme, etc., over a period of days. As such, it has come as no surprise to the Ethiopian Government. We believe that the international community will see this latest nefarious posturing by the Eritrean regime for what it really is - a futile attempt by a criminal to cover up his crime.

5. In the light of the above attempt to distort the facts, the Government of Ethiopia is duty-bound once again to put the issue in its proper perspective and to bring additional facts and developments to the attention of the international community at large and relevant international organizations mandated to look into issues of this nature in particular.

6. As has been so commonly manifested in its crude practice of the use of force against civilians, the Eritrean Government once again unashamedly demonstrated its brutal actions targeting Ethiopian civilians.

7. The Eritrean regime, which has no track record in respect of basic human rights and freedoms, and which has declared officially at the highest political level (the President himself) that war has no rules and that indiscriminate killings of civilians is inevitable and justifiable, has no moral ground to talk about violations of human rights.

8. Ever since the Eritrean regime unleashed the unprovoked aggression against Ethiopia, the Eritrean forces have deliberately chosen to strike civilian targets. In this regard, the bombing of an elementary school by the Eritrean Air Force in the city of Mekelle in broad daylight while students were in their classrooms, killing 51 and wounding 136, is a brutal act prohibited under general international humanitarian law, particularly under the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols which protect civilians during armed conflicts. There is no question that the air strike at the elementary school was a premeditated attack carried out twice within the space of two hours.

9. This act of indiscriminate killing of civilians was repeated on 11 June 1998 in Adigrat, where civilians and relief food supply stores were targeted, killing 4, and wounding 30 civilians, including an 18-month-old baby and a pregnant woman. These victims were the same people previously displaced by the aggressor force from the border town of Zalambessa.

10. The targeting of civilians, social and economic infrastructures is not something unprecedented for the Eritrean regime. The Eritrean aggression started on 12 May 1998 with the destruction of schools, health stations and other infrastructures in the locality of Badme. This has left the entire population of Badme and its environs with no health services and educational facilities. Thousands were displaced and left homeless and are now sheltered in relief centres.

11. In the first week of June, for no reason except to cause destruction, the Eritrean regime indiscriminately shelled and completely destroyed the Ethiopian town of Zalambessa. Its residents, over fifteen thousand (15,000), were compelled to flee to Adigrat, where they were mercilessly bombed again a week later.

12. The Eritrean regime has not limited its act of indiscriminate attack on civilians to northern Ethiopia. It has continued to unleash a campaign of terror against peaceful Ethiopians residing in Eritrea. The Eritrean authorities have been detaining thousands of Ethiopians in the Sawa, Asmara and Assab concentration camps without access to their families, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and journalists. These defenceless Ethiopians continued to be exposed to the worst form of torture, atrocities and inhuman treatment. Many others were dumped on the common border of the two countries. The Eritrean forces have brutally expelled well over 5,000 Ethiopian civilians from Eritrea after depriving them of their property and subjecting many of them to beatings and torture.

13. The parading of an Ethiopian prisoner of war in the streets of Asmara on 6 June 1998 is only one example of the act of brutality that is characteristic of the regime's behaviour from the outset.

14. Ethiopians in Ethiopian territories occupied by Eritrea are being compelled to take up Eritrean citizenship and prevented from carrying out their farming activities if they fail to do so.

15. Despite the appeal made by the international community, the Eritrean regime has continued to violate the basic human rights of Ethiopians. Recently, about 30,000 Ethiopians residing in Assab have been denied the right to work or to leave for their country. As a consequence of this outrageous act, two women, who were unable to feed their families, have committed suicide. Some were also subjected to rigorous forms of supervision, whereby they are obliged to report to the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) office every day.

16. Furthermore, about 60 Ethiopian nationals died of asphyxiation in the Eritrean Red Sea port of Assab after being locked in an unventilated cargo container.

17. The Eritrean regime, in full disregard of the ongoing effort of the international community to ban anti-personnel landmines and to support the demining endeavour in our subregion, is extensively and indiscriminately using these deadly weapons to terrorize civilians, deny them access to farmlands, causing famine and forcing people to flee their homes and eventually to depopulate the occupied territories. As the result of deliberate use of these weapons, hundreds of innocent civilians and cattle were killed, and many other civilians were maimed. Such practices are a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and should be condemned unequivocally.

18. As a result of the naked and blatant aggression of the Eritrean regime and indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines, the number of displaced persons has now reached 194,000 and it is expected that this number will soon reach 300,000.

19. The Eritrean authorities have not limited their criminal acts to blatant aggression and gross violations of human rights. They have been trying to complement these acts with various terrorist and espionage networking activities inside Ethiopia. To this end, the EPLF's clandestine organization called "People's Front for Democracy and Justice" has been undertaking a sinister move to organize its underground structure in all parts of Ethiopia, which the Government of Ethiopia unveiled at the earliest stage (see annex II). The aim of this clandestine activity is the destabilization of Ethiopia using Eritrean nationals residing in Ethiopia. This is, to say the least, clearly an abuse of privilege by a category of foreign nationals residing in Ethiopia. Since no self-respecting State can allow itself to be destabilized in such a manner, legitimate measures taken by the Ethiopean Government to counter this threat to national security should be seen in this light.

20. In contravention of the principles laid down under Articles 2 and 10 of the Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States of 8 July 1985, and the provisions related with the access of land-locked States to and from the sea and

freedom of transit under Part X (Arts. 124-132) of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, as well as terms of the Bilateral Agreement on Transit and Port Services signed between Ethiopia and Eritrea on 29 September 1993, the Eritrean authorities have seized a total of more than 135,000 tons of dry cargo, 46,741 metric cube of liquid cargo and 51 metric tons of asphalt, without any legal ground, at the Eritrean ports of Massawa and Assab. These are goods destined for relief, and civilian projects designed to address the basic needs of the people. It is to be noted that the Government of Eritrea is currently transporting seized goods from the ports of Assab and Massawa to Asmara, for which Ethiopia is the proprietor.

21. On the contrary, the Ethiopian Government's reaction to the unprovoked aggression by the Eritrean regime was based on the cardinal principles of international law and relevant conventions. Even weeks after the aggression was committed by the invading forces, the Ethiopian Government has not responded in kind and has exercised maximum restraint, even though it was fully justified to do so under international law. The defensive air strike by the Ethiopian Air Force only targeted military installations at the Eritrean Air Force base in Asmara. As far as the ground war is concerned, Ethiopia has continued to defend its territory from further encroachment by Eritrean forces. Moreover, it has treated prisoners of war taken as the result of the military engagement with Eritrean forces in the most human way. ICRC and other concerned agencies have full access to visit Eritrean prisoners of war.

22. Furthermore, the policy of the Ethiopian Government towards Eritreans residing in Ethiopia is based on the solid principle of friendship and a bond of common destiny. Even in the face of naked aggression and continuous provocation by the Eritrean regime, the Ethiopian Government is totally committed to respect the rights of Eritreans living in its territory and fully guarantees them the right to live and work in peace. Under no circumstances will the Ethiopian Government succumb to a tit-for-tat exercise with the Eritrean regime in the treatment of civilians in conflict situations.

23. However, the Government of Ethiopia, as a victim of unprovoked aggression, has taken precautionary measures on former EPLF combatants, members of the EPLF's clandestine organization called "People's Front for Democracy and Justice", and conscripts who entered Ethiopia taking advantage of the visa liberalization policy, and on those who have been found contributing materially and financially to Eritrea's war of aggression. These measures have been taken in full transparency and according to pertinent international norms and principles.

24. Moreover, Ethiopia has facilitated, and will continue to do so, for ICRC, concerned United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regular access to prisoners of war and temporarily detained Eritrean civilians, while the Eritrean regime, in spite of the promises it has made, has so far never allowed ICRC and other concerned United Nations bodies to have any access to Ethiopian civilian detainees and prisoners of war (annex III).

25. In the light of the foregoing, the Government of Ethiopia would like to reiterate, that the Eritrean Government has neither the moral nor the political

standing to accuse Ethiopia of violating the basic human rights of Eritreans currently residing in Ethiopia. It is the Eritrean regime which is solely responsible for committing gross and flagrant violation of basic human rights and freedoms and principles of international humanitarian law. And yet it has the audacity to accuse Ethiopia of human rights violations. This behaviour is indeed a glaring demonstration of the extent of hypocrisy of the Eritrean regime.

26. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia believes that the United Nations, regional organizations and their member States have legal, political as well as moral responsibility to take all measures with a view to preventing the Eritrean aggressor from further grave breaches of International law.

27. To this end, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia again calls upon the international community, inter alia, to:

- Expose the hypocrisy and temerity of the Eritrean Government in trying to invoke international human rights instruments, not a single one of which it has even signed, let alone ratified, over and above its fabrication of facts and figures;

- Condemn in the strongest terms possible the Eritrean aggression against Ethiopia and gross violations of the basic human rights of Ethiopians peacefully living in Eritrea;

- Secure unhindered access for human rights organizations and humanitarian agencies to areas where Ethiopian nationals have been arbitrarily detained, so that steps can be taken to locate and take them to areas where their personal safety and security can be assured and secure their unconditional release;

- Ensure the unconditional return of the properties of Ethiopian civilians and businessmen confiscated and robbed by the Eritrean regime, as well as detained shipments at the ports of Assab and Massawa;

- Put pressure on the Eritrean Government to abide by the principles of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols, which are generally recognized as norms of international law that govern inter-State relations.

28. And further calls upon:

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other agencies of the United Nations system to make a coordinated response in supporting the thousands of internally displaced persons and those Ethiopian civilians forcefully evicted from Eritrea;

- International human rights organizations, in particular the United Nations Human Rights Commission to investigate and make public the continuing arrests, harassment, intimidation, torture, arbitrary killings and disappearances of Ethiopian nationals in Eritrea.

The Government of Ethiopia, regardless of the inhuman and criminal acts of the Eritrean regime in targeting civilians and civilian installations and the maltreatment of Ethiopian nationals in Eritrea, assures the international community that it remains committed to live up to international standards and norms in the treatment of Eritrean civilians peacefully residing in Ethiopia.

Annex II

Short synopsis of the loss of life, population displacement and destruction of property caused by the unprovoked Eritrean aggression against Ethiopia since May 1998

1. Occupied territories (Badme, part of Shiraro, Atsemeyti and Adi-Tsetser)

12 May	-	20 people were killed, a further 20 were wounded and 370 people were displaced;
13 May-4 June	-	23 social facilities, comprising 12 elementary schools, 9 health posts and 2 clinics, were destroyed;
	-	30 Ethiopians were kidnapped, 8 others were jailed, and 3 civilians were publicly executed;
	-	1,800 quintals of agricultural inputs and grain stored to be distributed to draught victims in the area, thousands of domestic animals, construction materials worth around 100,000 birr and other properties were looted;
	-	Work on 18 boreholes expected to benefit more than 10,000 people was disrupted;
1-12 July	-	Eight churches containing highly valued icons and ceremonial crosses, were looted;
	-	Over 370 Ethiopians were expelled.

2. Makelle town

5 June	-	Eritrean warplanes, targeting primarily civilian targets, killed 51 people and wounded 136 others aged between 5 and 70. The victims of the raids were students in school compounds and families who happened to be in the vicinity looking for their children.

3. Adigrat town

11 June	-	Eritrean warplanes unleashed a second air attack on civilian establishments. As a result of that attack, 4 persons were killed and over 30 others were wounded, while a warehouse of the Commission for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness was seriously damaged and relief supplies (20 thousand quintals of grain and 13,500 litres of edible oil), which were meant for displaced civilians from battle zones, were destroyed.

4. Asmara and its environs

9 June	-	Eritrean security forces evicted over 3,000 Ethiopian civilians and detained about 600 others, confiscating their property, including personal belongings and inflicting inhuman suffering. Many of them were deported through hostile territory across the common border in an inhuman manner.

5. Assab

9 June	-	More than 1,000 Ethiopians who were evicted from Assab were subjected to the worst form of torture and inhuman treatment;
8 July	-	Eritrean authorities expelled 200 Ethiopian teachers, students and merchants from Assab to Djibouti, confiscating their personal possessions;
14 July	-	About 30,000 Ethiopians have been denied their right to work and leave to their country. Two Ethiopian women, who are unable to feed their families, committed suicide. Some were exposed to rigorous forms of supervision whereby they are subjected to report to the EPLF office every day;
15 July	-	About 60 Ethiopian nationals died of asphyxiation in the Eritrean Red Sea port of Assab after being locked in an unventilated cargo container.

6. Other parts of Eritrea (Dekemehari, Senafe, Adikei, Massawa, Umahajjer and Tesseney)

11 June	-	Another group of Ethiopians, numbering more than 180, were subjected to the same type of inhuman treatment and deported to Ethiopia.

7. Dislocation of Ethiopian population

As the result of this naked and blatant Eritrean aggression, the number of displaced persons has now reached 194,000 and it is expected that this number will reach 300,000.

8. Illegal detention of shipments destined to Ethiopia at the ports of Assab and Massawa

The Eritrean authorities have detained a total of more than 135,000 tons of dry cargo, 46,741 metric cubes of liquid cargo and 51 metric tons of asphalt, without any legal ground, at the Eritrean ports of Massawa and Assab. These are goods destined for relief and civilian projects designed to address the basic needs of the people.

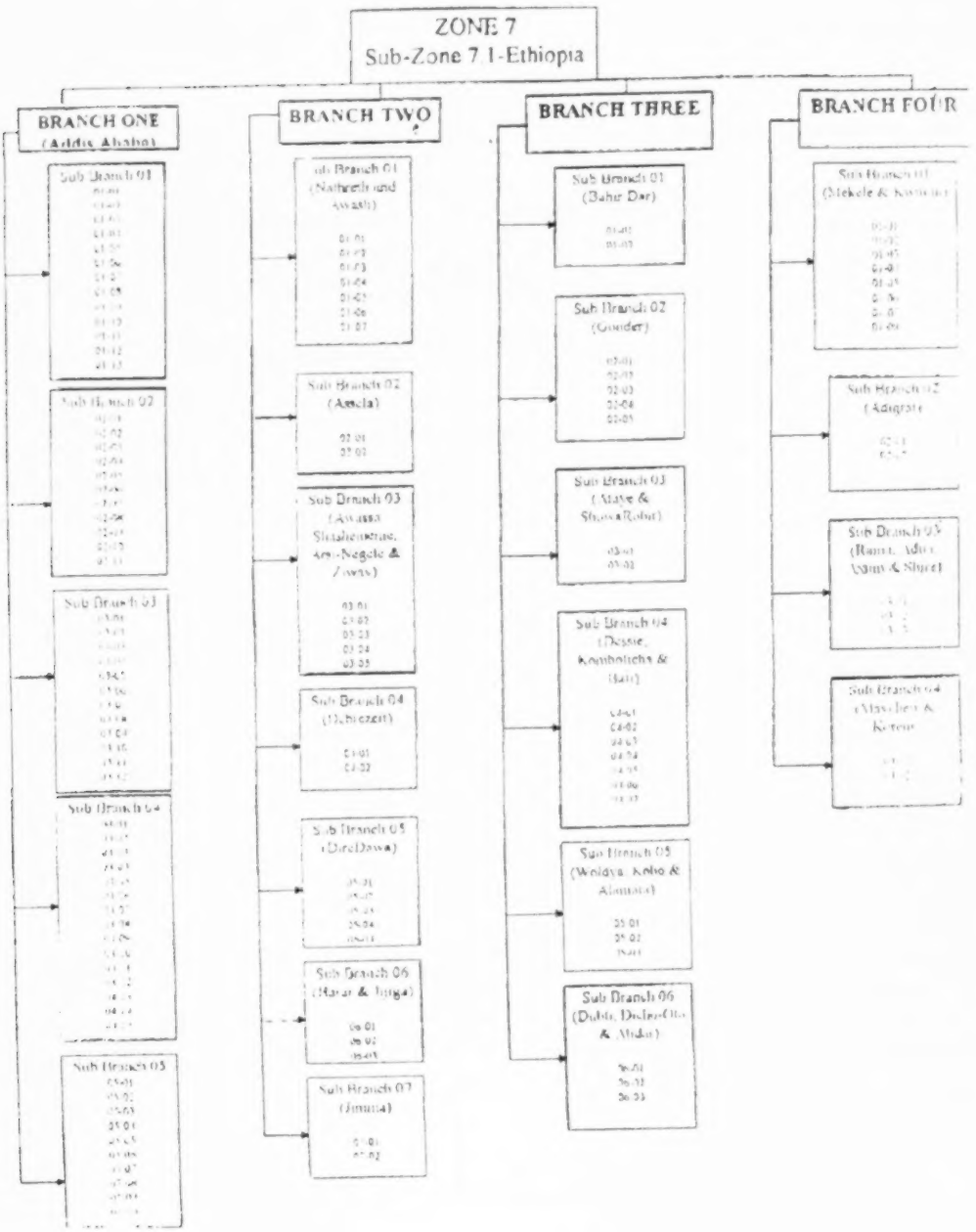
This short list of crimes committed by the Eritrean aggressor against defenceless civilians, including women and children, cannot be confused with border disputes. These are crimes against humanity which the international community must denounce and condemn without hesitation.

Annex III

People's front for democracy and justice

(clandestine organizational structure of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in Ethiopia)

Adapted from the structure prepared by the EPLF in the Tigrigna Language



Annex IV

Press statement issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross in issue No. 27 of "ICRC News" dated 9 July 1998

ETHIOPIA/ERITREA
ICRC DELEGATES VISIT PRISONERS OF WAR AND PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONFLICT VICTIMS

The ICRC carried out two visits to the 163 prisoners of war being held in Fiche camp, the first on 27 June and the second on 2 July. All of these prisoners have now been registered.

On 26 June a visit was also made to the civilian internees being held in Fiche in order to register those who had arrived since the ICRC first went to the camp on 20 June. At the end of the second visit a total of 664 civilian internees had been registered.

All the visits were conducted in accordance with the ICRC's standard working procedures and will be repeated on a regular basis.

The civilian internees and prisoners of war who had not yet been in contact with their families wrote Red Cross messages which will be distributed via the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea and other National Societies.

In close conjunction with the Tigray branch of the Ethiopian Red Cross and the regional health authorities, the ICRC furnished additional medical supplies to be distributed to hospitals and other medical facilities in the northern Tigray region of the country.

In Eritrea, the National Society is continuing to provide medical facilities with ambulances and volunteers near potential conflict areas along the Ethiopian border. Such action has proved helpful in the past, particularly when fighting broke out near the town of Zalambessa and in the south-eastern border area. Local Red Cross branches are being regularly resupplied with first-aid equipment and other essential non-food items. At the same time, in cooperation with local authorities, the Eritrean Red Cross is continuing to assess the situation of displaced persons and other civilians affected by the conflict.

As part of their tracing activities, the ICRC and the Eritrean Red Cross have so far collected 16 Red Cross messages from the families of young men who were studying in Ethiopia under a bilateral exchange programme. Meanwhile, the ICRC is keeping up its dialogue with the authorities in Asmara concerning the protection of persons wounded or captured during the recent fighting.

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 24 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter dated 23 July 1998 (A/52/991-S/1998/683), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 22 and 23 July 1998.

On 22 July, at 1418 hours, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations and landed at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, returning the same day to the Ankara flight information region.

On 23 July, two CN-235 aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the northern Nicosia flight information region. One of the aircraft landed at the illegal Tymbou airport and later both of them returned to the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish once more to protest strongly against these repeated provocative acts by Turkey, a Member State of the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. These acts are in complete disregard of

international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agis LOIZOU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/52/994

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Fifty-second session
Agenda items 20, 107 and 112

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Human rights questions

Letter dated 24 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly*

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued today, 24 July 1998, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea concerning Ethiopia's gross violations of the human rights of Eritrean civilians living in that country.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly under agenda items 20, 107 and 112.

(*Signed*) Haile **Menkerios**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Previously issued under the symbol S/1998/690.

98-21847 (E) 280798

Annex

Statement on Ethiopia's gross violation of basic human rights

In an affront to the international community, which has been interceding with the Ethiopian Government to stop the massive and illegal arrest of Eritreans residing in Ethiopia, the Addis Ababa authorities have started a third wave of arrests in preparation for more deportations. There are ominous reports of fresh and widespread arrests, especially in Addis Ababa in the past three days.

More than 11,000 Eritreans were rounded up and deported in the most inhumane way in two previous rounds from major centres in the country and villages in the border areas. People were dragged from their homes in the middle of the night, families cruelly separated from their underage children, and even suckling babies left behind. Property was looted after the families were deported and dispersed.

The Ethiopian authorities have also arrested thousands of young Eritreans under the ridiculous claim that their enrolment in the national service, the summer school campaign or previous role in the liberation war renders them "a potential threat to the security of Ethiopia". More than 1,000 Eritrean youth thus remain "prisoners of war" in a detention camp at Fitche. Eighty university students are included among these hostages. Many innocent Eritreans are also being held in prisons in other parts of the country, particularly in Makelle and Adi Grat. Two Eritrean Catholic nuns were recently arrested in Adi Grat, while five other priests who were running schools in south-eastern Ethiopia were deported.

Eritreans who hold the nationality of other countries are similarly being arrested and deported, although some have been rescued owing to the protests of their respective embassies.

Many Governments, international agencies and human rights groups have been interceding with the Ethiopian authorities to stop this gross violation of human rights, but "quiet diplomacy" has not delivered tangible results. The authorities in Addis Ababa continue to trample on basic human rights and pursue with impunity the arbitrary arrest and mass deportation of Eritreans in total contempt of the concerns of the international community. The Ethiopian Prime Minister even had the temerity to publicly state that "Ethiopia has an unlimited right to expel any foreigner if it did not like the colour of his/her eyes".

Addis Ababa is moreover resorting to the most base practice of fabricating lies to accuse the Eritrean Government of similar violation of human rights. To this end, it has revived the "Moral Boosting Department" which the Mengistu regime had established with the help of the former German Democratic Republic to concoct and spread lies to disinform the domestic and international communities. Among the outrageous lies that this Department has fabricated this week are wild allegations of "group rapes by Eritrean fighters"; "burning of seven Ethiopians in Alla", "the wanton shooting of Ethiopians who wanted to return to their country in Adi Quala", "the public beating of Ethiopian civilians in Asmara and the parading of prisoners of war". The banality of these allegations has been verified by a British Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Eritrea, the International Committee of the Red Cross and members of the diplomatic community in Asmara, but the international press continues to pick up these allegations at face value without the necessary verification.

The Government of Eritrea finds the silence in the face of Ethiopia's gross violation of human rights and the inflammatory campaign of disinformation shocking and

unacceptable. The international community should no longer confine its reactions to mute diplomatic protests. These excesses must be condemned publicly and unequivocally.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asmara
24 July 1998

United Nations A/52/995

General Assembly

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 27 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Palestinian National Covenant is the founding charter of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), delineating the organization's stated aims and goals. Almost all of the articles in the Covenant explicitly or implicitly deny Israel's right to exist and reject any peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. For example, article 19 states, "the establishment of Israel is fundamentally null and void, whatever time has elapsed ...", while article 15 calls for "the liquidation of the Zionist presence in Palestine". Article 22 again asserts that "the liberation of Palestine will destroy the Zionist and imperialist presence and will contribute to the establishment of peace in the Middle East ...".

The Covenant also denies the existence of the Jewish people as a nation and any ties that it might have to the Land of Israel (article 20): "Nor do Jews constitute a single nation." It declares that "armed struggle is the *only* [emphasis added] way to liberate Palestine" (article 9). There is no question that the Palestinian National Covenant calls for politicide: the destruction of the State of Israel.

For this reason, all Israeli Governments have insisted on the revision of the Palestinian National Covenant as a fundamental requirement in any process of mutual recognition and reconciliation between Israel and the PLO. On 9 September 1993, in his exchange of letters with the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat affirmed in the name of the PLO that those articles of the Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist (and were inconsistent with the PLO's new commitments) were inoperative and no longer valid. Mr. Arafat, moreover, made a commitment to submit the necessary changes in the Covenant to the Palestinian National Council (PNC) for formal approval.

The PLO reaffirmed this commitment again on 4 May 1994 in the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area. The PLO reaffirmed this commitment, yet another time, on 28 September 1995 with the signing of the "Oslo II" Interim Agreement.

On 24 April 1996, the Palestinian National Council (PNC) convened in Gaza and adopted a resolution concerning the Covenant by a vote of 504 to 54 with 14 abstentions. Translated from the Arabic, the text of the resolution read as follows:

98-21911 (E) 290798

"It has been decided upon:

1. Amending the National Charter by cancelling the articles that are contrary to the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Government of Israel, on 9 and 10 September 1993.

2. The empowerment of a legal committee with the task of redrafting the National Charter. The Charter will be presented to the first meeting of the Central Council."

The pivotal problem with the PNC resolution is that it did not change the Covenant. While the PNC declared its readiness in principle to change the document, the only practical step taken was the empowerment of a legal committee to draft a new Covenant for presentation at a future date. Two days before the PNC meeting, Mr. Arafat's deputy, Mahmud Abbas (Abu Mazen), informed the Israeli Government that an unambiguous revision of the Covenant would not be approved by the PNC. Therefore, the PNC resolution that was ultimately drafted was intentionally vague.

Since the Covenant is a legally binding document, declaring a willingness to alter it does not amount to amending it. No changes were adopted and implemented by the PNC, nor was there any specific mention of articles to be amended. While Israeli and American spokesmen were hopeful at the time that, despite this ambiguity, the Palestinian National Covenant had at last been changed, subsequent statements by Palestinian spokesmen confirmed that, in fact, no revision had been made.

At the time of the vote, senior PLO officials acknowledged that the Covenant had not been changed. PLO Executive Committee member Sakhr Habash said, "the text of the charter remains as it is since it has not been amended yet. Therefore, it is frozen, not cancelled." (*An-Nahar*, 5 May 1996). An internal report published shortly after the PNC vote by the Research and Thought Department of the Fatah Organization (Fatah Publication Number 8, Nissan 1996) contained a similar determination. The report stated, "The text of the Palestinian National Covenant remains as it was and no changes *whatsoever* [emphasis added] were made to it. This has caused it to be frozen, but not annulled".

The PNC itself failed to make any mention of changing the Covenant in its closing statement at the end of its session, on 25 April 1996. The PNC did publish a concluding document summarizing its activity, which included 19 specific resolutions and decisions on subjects ranging from Jerusalem to Israeli settlements. But it contained no reference to any decision to amend the Covenant (*Al-Quds*, 26 April 1996; *Voice of Palestine*, 26 April 1996).

Less than a month after the PNC vote, PNC Chairman Selim Zaanoun asserted that the Covenant had been amended but added that "no specific articles" were cancelled (*An-Nahar*, 16 May 1996). In an interview on 22 January 1998, Faisal Hamdi Husseini, head of the PNC's legal committee, said "The change has not yet been carried out."

In the Note for the Record, which accompanied the 15 January 1997 Hebron Protocol, the PLO made an explicit commitment to "Complete the process of revising the Palestinian National Charter". This was an open acknowledgement that, until that point, it had failed to change the Covenant, for otherwise there would be no need to "complete the process" of revising it. This was the *fourth* time the PLO undertook to revise the Covenant since the beginning of the Oslo process.

It should be added that Chairman Arafat committed himself to the Note for the Record, which was also signed by United States Ambassador Dennis Ross on behalf of the United States of America. That agreement included an explicit commitment to the principle of

reciprocity: Israel would not be expected to implement its commitments if the PLO did not fulfil its pledges, including its pledge to revise the Covenant.

Article 33 of the Covenant states that the only body empowered to change the document is the Palestinian National Covenant (PNC) and that such changes must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the PNC in a special session. Thus, Chairman Arafat's recent letters on the subject to world leaders, like President Clinton or Prime Minister Blair, are insufficient. Under the procedure outlined by the Covenant itself, Chairman Arafat's letters have no legal bearing on the text of the document. Therefore, the PLO's obligation to convene the PNC in order to amend the Covenant remains unfulfilled.

As the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in a speech to the Knesset on 5 October 1995, at the time of the ratification of the "Oslo II" Interim Agreement: "The Palestinian Authority has not up until now honoured its commitment to change the Palestinian Covenant ... I view these changes as a supreme test of the Palestinian Authority's willingness and ability, and the changes required will be an important and serious touchstone vis-à-vis the continued implementation of the agreement as a whole".

Given all the contradictory statements that have been made by mainstream Palestinian officials about the Covenant, Israel must be insistent that this change be carried out in a clear-cut and indisputable manner. No nation can agree to make itself more vulnerable, in a negotiating process, when its negotiating partner remains ambiguous about whether it still intends to wage a war of destruction.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37 entitled "The Situation in the Middle East."

(*Signed*) Ambassador Dore **Gold**
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 27 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 24 July 1998 (A/52/993-S/1998/693), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 25 July 1998.

On that day, six Turkish military aircraft escorting a VIP plane, which was carrying the Turkish President, entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus. The VIP airplane landed at the illegal airport of Tymbou, whereas the six military aircraft returned back to the Ankara flight information region.

In the afternoon of the same day six Turkish military aircraft entered the northern Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations. Four of them escorted the Turkish President's VIP plane, which had departed the illegal Tymbou airport, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus. All six military aircraft together with the VIP plane carrying the Turkish President returned back to the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish once more to protest strongly these repeated provocative acts by Turkey, a State Member of the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. They expose once more that country's systematic disregard of the norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agis LOIZOU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 27 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 July 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Rauf Denktaş, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tuluy TANC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 24 July 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 9 July 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations (A/52/981-S/1998/631), which contains allegations regarding cultural property in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Previous allegations regarding the so-called "destruction of the religious and cultural identity" of Northern Cyprus have been amply dealt with in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 15 June 1998 (A/52/956-S/1998/527, annex). Suffice it to say that these Greek Cypriot charges are nothing more than a propaganda ploy which is based on fabrication and misinformation. By pursuing this policy the Greek Cypriots aim to obscure the fact that it has been the Greek Cypriot side that has systematically tried to eradicate the Turkish-Muslim heritage of Cyprus, in particular during the ethnic cleansing campaign directed against the Turkish Cypriot people between 1963 and 1974. A list of 103 mosques and Islamic holy sites destroyed or damaged during this period has been circulated in the appendix to document A/52/366-S/1997/724 of 18 September 1997.

Despite the Greek Cypriot representative's rhetoric to the effect that the policy of the Greek Cypriot administration is "to protect and maintain all cultural, historic and religious monuments in Cyprus", the Greek Cypriot side continues, on the one hand, to show utter contempt for what is left of the Turkish-Islamic heritage in South Cyprus where Ottoman Turkish shrines are under threat of disintegration due to total neglect and, on the other, systematically blocks any financial or technical assistance to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus from international organizations for conservation purposes. Consequently, unlike the Greek Cypriots, who are assisted by generous donations from international organizations and various funds, the Department of Antiquities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the competent authority charged with protecting and preserving cultural sites in the Republic, has to realize its objectives with limited resources.

The policy of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is to protect the cultural heritage of Northern Cyprus, irrespective of its religious and ethnic origins. Our incessant efforts in this direction have received praise from foreign observers who have visited the island on different occasions. In view of the foregoing, it is clear that the allegations of the Greek Cypriot side on the subject of cultural heritage have no basis and are utterly unjustified. In spite of the reality that the Turkish Cypriots are sovereign equals and co-owners of Cyprus and that the island has a rich Turkish-Islamic heritage owing to centuries-long Turkish rule, with these allegations the Greek Cypriot side attempts to portray Cyprus as an Hellenic island with an exclusively Orthodox Christian background. Such efforts on the part of the Greek Cypriot side demonstrate a mindset which is far removed from engaging in a dialogue on the basis of the existence of two sovereign States with a view to arriving at a partnership settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLUMER
Representative of the Turkish
Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/52/998

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Fifty-second session
Agenda items 20 (c) and 43

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Letter dated 28 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the relocation of non-governmental organization offices in Kabul, Afghanistan, issued on 28 July 1998 (copies annexed hereto in English and French).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under agenda items 20 (c) and 43.

(*Signed*) Ernst **Sucharipa**
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

98-22421 (e) 310798 310798

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the relocation of non-government organization offices in Kabul, Afghanistan

The European Union is deeply concerned by the decision of the Taliban authorities in Kabul to forcefully close the offices of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), expel NGO foreign workers and imprison NGO local personnel. These decisions have forced the NGOs to abandon their much needed help for the innocent civilian population of Kabul, which now has to suffer the consequences of the decisions of the local authorities.

The European Union further condemns the violation of premises of the European Community Humanitarian Office in Kabul and the treatment of local staff of the European Community Humanitarian Office by the authorities of the Taliban.

The European Union donates two thirds of all humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, but the European Commission has now been obliged to suspend common funding by the Community for projects in Kabul. The European Union earnestly desires to continue helping the Afghan people, who have already suffered so much from years of conflict. However, aid can only continue where it can be delivered in an effective and principled manner, without discrimination, and where humanitarian organizations are able to carry out their work freely and safely.

The European Union once again calls upon all warring factions to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan and to undertake serious steps towards a negotiated settlement. In this context, the European Union welcomes the continuing efforts by prominent Afghans representing a broad spectrum of Afghan society, such as those who met at Bonn from 18 to 23 July in the framework of the so-called Frankfurt process, to prepare for a *Loya Jirga* (grand assembly), a time-honoured Afghan instrument for settling disputes.

The European Union welcomes the position taken by the United Nations and fully supports its efforts to resolve the crisis in Kabul and to ensure adequate conditions for the delivery of aid. It hopes that NGOs will soon be able to return so that humanitarian needs can be met.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the countries of the European Free Trade Association members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 28 July 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 28 July 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tuluy TANÇ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-22427 (E) 310798

Annex

Letter dated 28 July 1998 from the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 2, 9, 15 and 23 July 1998 addressed to you by Greek Cypriot officials at the United Nations, which contain allegations on "violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/52/973-S/1998/609, A/52/976-S/1998/622, A/52/984-S/1998/651, A/52/988-S/1998/670 and A/52/991-S/1998/683, respectively).

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called airspace violations were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 7 July 1998 (A/52/977-S/1998/626). Since the present allegations are no different than the preceding ones, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate, however, that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the south has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

The repeated allegations made by the Greek Cypriot administration are aimed at upholding the myth that it has sovereignty and jurisdiction over the whole island. This posture demonstrates that the Greek Cypriot side is not prepared to accept the present realities in the island (i.e. the existence of two sovereign peoples and their respective states) and engage in a meaningful dialogue on that basis. If there is to be a partnership settlement on the island, a realistic approach is needed on the part of the Greek Cypriots.

It is high time that all concerned parties openly acknowledge that the purely Greek Cypriot administration, whose jurisdiction extends only over the area of the island under Greek Cypriot control, is not and cannot be the government of the Turkish Cypriot people or the island as a whole.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus